

CLAIMS

We claim:

1 1. A user interface for use with a computer system, said user  
2 interface comprising:  
3 selecting means for selecting from a list of predetermined  
4 applications and outputting a selection signal;  
a conflict map containing a list of conflicts between the list  
of predetermined applications; and  
conflict checking means, coupled to the selecting means and  
the conflict map, for receiving the selection signal, determining  
from the selection signal and the conflict map whether a potential  
conflict could occur, and outputting a display message if a  
determination is made that a potential conflict could occur.

1 2. The user interface of claim 1, wherein said selecting  
2 means comprises a remote control, said user interface further  
3 comprises:  
4 an input device interface, for receiving signals from the  
5 remote control and converting the signals from the remote control  
6 into command signals.

1 3. The user interface of claim 2, wherein said remote control  
2 comprises an infrared remote control and said input interface  
3 device further comprises:

4 converting means for converting infrared remote control  
5 signals to USB signals, said converting means receiving an infrared  
6 remote control signal, determining context of use of the infrared  
7 remote control signal, and generating a corresponding USB signal to  
8 communicate the infrared remote control signal to an intended  
device.

9 4. A method of selecting among a predetermined plurality of  
10 applications to run on a computer system for presentation on a  
11 display screen, comprising the steps of:

selecting from a list of predetermined applications and  
outputting a selection signal,

receiving the selection signal and determining from the  
selection signal and a conflict map containing a list of conflicts  
between the list of predetermined applications whether a potential  
conflict could occur, and

outputting a display message if a determination is made that  
a potential conflict could occur.

1           5. The method of claim 4, wherein said step of outputting a  
2 display message further comprises the step of:  
3           prompting a user to select another application if a  
4 determination is made that a potential conflict could occur.

1           6. The method according to claim 5, further comprising the  
steps of:  
          determining whether a television or a computer monitor has  
          been connected to the computer system, and  
          selecting hardware in a video output device in the computer  
system to engage alternate video ports to produce a optimal quality  
output in response to said determining step.

1           7. A method for selecting one of at least two predetermined  
2 device application modes in a television set-top system, comprising  
3 the steps of:  
4           selecting a first device application mode from a predetermined  
5 menu of device application modes, which menu includes at least two  
6 such predetermined device application modes,  
7           determining whether a second of said at least two such  
8 predetermined device application modes is active, and

3  
a  
cont  
10 initiating television presentation of activities relating to  
said first device application mode.

1 8. The method according to claim 7, further comprising the  
2 step of:

3 halting the second of said at least two such predetermined  
4 device application modes upon initiation of the first device  
application mode.

5 9. The method according to claim 7, further comprising the  
step of:

minimizing the second of said at least two such predetermined  
device application modes upon initiation of the first device  
application mode.

1 10. The method according to claim 7, further comprising the  
2 step of:

3 presenting images relating to the second of said at least two  
4 such predetermined device application modes in a selected window.

1           11. The method according to claim 10, wherein said selected  
2 window is subordinated in a web browser environment.

1           12. The method according to claim 11, further comprising the  
2 step of:

3           presenting a control panel for setting operating parameters  
4 for the second of said at least two such predetermined device  
application modes within a selected window.

13. The method according to claim 7, wherein step of  
selecting comprises the step of selecting with a remote control  
device.

1           14. The method according to claim 7, wherein step of  
2 selecting comprises the step of selecting through an on-screen  
3 emulation of a remote control device.

1           15. The method according to claim 7, wherein said step of  
2 selecting is made by clicking a mouse over an active portion of a  
3 screen image of a control panel image.

16. A set-top system comprising:  
a television for producing images according to one or more application modes;  
a device in communication with said television, said device containing circuitry for implementing at least two predetermined application modes; and  
a controller for selecting an application mode,  
wherein said device is configured to determine activation status of at least a single non-selected application mode when a particular other activation mode is selected.

17. The set-top system of claim 16, wherein said controller further comprises a selecting means for selecting from a list of predetermined applications and outputting a selection signal, and said controller further comprises:  
a conflict map containing a list of conflicts between the list of predetermined applications; and  
conflict checking means, coupled to the selecting means and the conflict map, for receiving the selection signal, determining from the selection signal and the conflict map whether a potential conflict could occur, and outputting a

11 display message if a determination is made that a potential  
12 conflict could occur.

1 18. The set-top system of claim 17, wherein said selecting  
2 means comprises a remote control, said user interface further  
3 comprises:

4 an input device interface, for receiving signals from the  
remote control and converting the signals from the remote control  
into command signals.

19. The set-top system of claim 18, wherein said remote  
control comprises an infrared remote control and said input  
interface device further comprises:

converting means for converting infrared remote control  
5 signals to USB signals, said converting means receiving an infrared  
6 remote control signal, determining context of use of the infrared  
7 remote control signal, and generating a corresponding USB signal to  
8 communicate the infrared remote control signal to an intended  
9 device.

1 20. A computer readable computer program product expressed in  
2 a selected computer readable medium, comprising:

3 a first computer code mechanism for selecting a first device  
4 application mode from a predetermined menu of device application  
5 modes, which menu includes at least two such predetermined device  
6 application modes;

7 a second computer code mechanism for determining whether a  
8 second of said at least two such predetermined device application  
9 modes is active; and

10 a third computer code mechanism for initiating television  
11 presentation of activities relating to said first device  
12 application mode.